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## CHAIRMAN POWELL, COMMISSIONER COPPS AND OTHER FCC OFFICIALS TO VISIT GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Washington, DC – FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, Commissioner Michael J. Copps and Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Chief K. Dane Snowden, will lead a delegation of FCC officials on a visit to the Gila River Indian Community, near Phoenix, AZ, and Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI), on Wednesday, September 18.

GRTI is a tribal corporation wholly owned and operated by the Gila River Indian Community. It is the sole provider of telephone service to on-reservation households and businesses.

The FCC group will visit the GRTI headquarters and meet the staff and management. They will also attend the regularly-scheduled Tribal Council meeting and tour the community, including a visit to Veteran's Memorial Park, a site commemorating one of the men who raised the flag on Iwo Jima, who was a member of the Gila River Community.

This visit is part of the FCC's Indian Telecommunications Initiative (ITI), a comprehensive program that seeks to foster partnerships among tribes, industry and government agencies to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to American Indian tribes and Alaska Native village communities.